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REMARKS

The Office Action of August 16, 2000 has been received and the comments of the Examiner carefully considered.

The Examiner has rejected claims 2 and 9-12 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious in view of Nelson et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,487,198) and Herron et al. Further, the Examiner has rejected claims 2 and 9-12 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable in view of Chadha et al. and Herron et al.

Applicant has amended independent claim 9. Support for the amendment to claim 9 can be found in the specification on page 5, second paragraph. The cited combined references fail to teach or suggest a method for detecting the presence of a specific microorganism in a sample, as now claimed by the Applicant, wherein the antibodies emit essentially no resonance Raman spectra that interfere with the resonance Raman spectra of the microorganism. It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's obviousness rejections of claim 9, and claims 2 and 11 dependent thereon, have been obviated.

Applicant has amended independent claim 12. Support for the amendment to claim 12 can be found in the specification on page 5, second paragraph. The cited combined references fail to teach or suggest a system for detecting the presence of a specific microorganism in a sample, as now claimed by the Applicant, wherein the system is comprised of means for contacting said sample with a medium comprising solid phase immobilized antibodies which specifically bind to a characteristic cell surface antigen on said microorganism to form an antigen-antibody complex, thereby immobilizing said microorganism on said solid phase, said antibodies emitting essentially no resonance Raman spectra that interfere with the resonance Raman spectra of said microorganism when irradiated with a laser light of 242-257



Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the obviousness rejections of claim 12 have been traversed.

If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview with Applicant's representative would further the prosecution of the application, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below.

It is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification of the same is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard L. Stevens".

Richard L. Stevens
Registration No. 24,445
Samuels, Gauthier & Stevens
225 Franklin Street, Suite 3300
Boston, Massachusetts 02110
Telephone: (617) 426-9180
Extension 122